

**MINUTES OF
FAUQUIER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

7:00 P.M.

**Second Floor Conference Room – Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186**

Members Present: Mr. Peter S. Eltringham, Chairman; Mr. Ed Moore, Vice Chairman; Mr. R. Holder Trumbo, Jr.; Ms. Adrienne Garreau; Mr. Matthew Sheedy; Mr. John Green; and Mr. Mark Nesbit

Members Absent: Mr. Tony Tedeschi and Mr. Jeffrey Walker

Guests Present: Mr. Bob Lee, Marshall District Planning Commissioner, and Lieutenant Ray Acors, Fauquier County Sheriff's Department

Staff Present: Ms. Kimberley Fogle, Director of Community Development; Mrs. Susan Eddy, Chief of Planning; Mr. Chris Pettit, Planner; and Mrs. Fran Williams, Administrative Manager

1. Approval of October 30, 2013 Committee Meeting Minutes

ACTION: On motion made by Ms. Garreau and seconded by Mr. Moore, it was moved to approve the October 30, 2013 Committee Meeting minutes, as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Old Business

• Route 17 Marshall to Warrenton Traffic Calming – Scott Filling

Mrs. Eddy stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was asked to comment on the legal and administrative hurdles related to the four measures proposed by Mr. Scott Filling regarding the implementation of a variety of traffic calming and safety improvements on Route 17 from I-66 (Exit 28) in Marshall to the start of the Warrenton Bypass. VDOT's comments, as presented by Mr. Nesbit, are listed below each of the four suggestions in italics:

1. Prohibit trucks over 10 tons from driving in the left lane of Route 17 with the exception of the 45 mph speed zone section heading northbound toward Marshall.

The Code of Virginia (Section 46.2-803.1) prohibits commercial motor vehicles from driving on the left-most lane of interstate highways having more than two lanes in each direction. Route 17 is a rural principal arterial with

two lanes in each direction and there is no authority in the Code of Virginia to prohibit trucks in the left lane on Route 17.

2. Implement increased or double speeding fines for tractor trailers ONLY, and post signs warning tractor trailer drivers of the higher fines to assist with strictly maintaining the 55 mph speed limit.

In accordance with Section 46.2-878.2 of the Code of Virginia, the Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted a policy for the installation of signs advising of the maximum penalty for exceeding posted maximum speed limits in certain residential districts. These signs advise motorists of a maximum punishment of \$200, in addition to other penalties provided by law, for exceeding the speed limit. To qualify, a highway shall be a local residential, collector, or minor arterial street and have a posted speed limit of 35 mph or lower. Hence, Route 17 does not qualify for the posting of increased speeding fines.

3. Implement permanent speed display signs for northbound and southbound directions on Route 17.

Guidelines for Pole Mounted Speed Display (PMSD) signs are provided in a VDOT Traffic Engineering Division memorandum (TE-374.1) dated April 26, 2013. To qualify, the roadway must be residential and/or pedestrian oriented with no more than two lanes or other non-residential locations deemed appropriate by the Regional Traffic Engineer. Therefore, based on the recorded 85th percentile speed and the fact that most of the motorists are exceeding the speed limit, portable speed trailers and police enforcement are recommended at this time.

4. Implement “No Engine Brake” signs.

As per a VDOT Mobility Management Division memorandum (MM-316), engine braking and other noise restriction signs are no longer permitted by the State Traffic Engineer.

Mr. Nesbit further stated that while VDOT cannot support the four proposed measures, they will continue to brainstorm regarding any other actions that can assist along the Route 17 corridor. VDOT would like to meet with their law enforcement partners to discuss the speeds along this corridor after the first of the year. They will also place the portable speed trailers along Route 17 later this month. Mr. Nesbit concluded by encouraging citizens to make suggestions regarding where these portable speed trailers should be placed.

Mr. Trumbo suggested that further study be made to determine if a change in policy or state law is necessary to allow permanent speed display signs along four lane roadways.

Mr. Filling stated that engine braking is not only a noise issue, but also a safety hazard as many truckers get very close to motorists to intimidate them to go faster.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit will follow-up to determine when and where the temporary speed display trailers should be located. In addition, he will obtain additional information regarding the legality of the permanent display of these signs and schedule a meeting with Staff, the Sheriff's Office, and other parties as necessary. The Committee will continue discussion of this matter at its January 29, 2014 meeting.

- *Leeds Manor Road (Route 688) "Stop" Sign at Crest Hill Road*

Mrs. Eddy stated that Ms. Mary Judkins requested that "All-Way Stop" signs be placed on Leeds Manor Road (Route 688) at its intersection with Crest Hill Road (Route 647) in Hume. A "Stop" sign is already in place on Crest Hill Road at this intersection. Ms. Judkins' request, which was considered by the Committee at its September 25, 2013 meeting, noted the visibility and topography challenges at this intersection. VDOT was asked to bring back to the Committee previous studies done on Leeds Manor Road.

Mr. Nesbit provided the Committee with information regarding a 2010 study done on the intersection of Leeds Manor Road (Route 688) and John Barton Payne Road (Route 732), where a "Stop" sign was approved and installed.

Mr. Nesbit stated that there were sight issues that could not be resolved in other ways at the two intersections along Leeds Manor Road where "All-Way Stop" controls were put into place. He noted that there would need to be a significant increase in traffic volumes at the Leeds Manor Road and Crest Hill Road intersection to warrant a "Stop" sign. Mr. Nesbit stated that another study would be required for this location to determine if additional signage is necessary.

Mr. Trumbo stated that the two "All-Way Stop" signs in place are located within villages where the speed limit is lower than this section of Leeds Manor Road (Route 688) and Crest Hill Road (Route 647). Mr. Trumbo further stated that sight distance is more of a challenge in this location with vehicles traveling faster.

ACTION: The Committee will revisit this issue after the completion (scheduled for the summer of 2016) of the Thumb Run Bridge replacement project.

3. *New Business*

- *Elihu Hill Road (GPS Issues) – Ellen Mitchell*

Mrs. Eddy stated that Elihu Hill Road (Route 722) is located between Crest Hill Road (Route 647) and Free State Road (Route 721) via Mountjoy Road (Route 720). 0.40 miles of Elihu Hill Road and 0.83 miles of Mountjoy Road are in the state system. Both roads are experiencing inappropriate through traffic because of directions given by Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Ms. Ellen Mitchell is seeking signs directing drivers away from Elihu Hill Road and Mountjoy Road.

Ms. Mitchell stated that on numerous occasions her property and the road have been damaged by large trucks, including tractor trailers, turning around in her front yard. Ms. Mitchell stated that she and her neighbors have tried to maintain this road, but large vehicles are continually damaging it. Ms. Mitchell suggested that additional signage be placed in various locations, including Route 66 near Exit 27, alerting motorists that Elihu Hill Road is not a through street.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit will review current signage in the area of Route 66, Crest Hill Road, Free State Road, and Mountjoy Road to determine what additional signage may be necessary. Staff will draft an official request to the four major GPS providers alerting them that while Elihu Hill Road is used for E-911 purposes, it is not a through street. This item will be reconsidered at the February 26, 2014 Committee meeting.

- *Mountjoy Road – Joseph Guite, Jr.*

Mrs. Eddy stated that Mountjoy Road (Route 720) is located between Free State Road (Route 721) and Crest Hill Road (Route 647) via Elihu Hill Road (Route 722). 0.83 miles of Mountjoy Road and 0.40 miles of Elihu Hill Road are in the state system. Mr. Joseph Guite, Jr. is seeking to have the entire length of Mountjoy Road taken into the state system for maintenance and a turnaround provided for “lost” large trucks.

Mr. Guite reviewed his request.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit will research to see if VDOT has any historical documents related to the maintenance of this road. Staff will continue to gather facts related to the County’s history on the road; seek the advice of legal counsel; and investigate having a title search done. Mr. Guite will also continue gathering facts related to this issue. This item will be reconsidered at the February 26, 2014 Committee meeting.

- *Kings Hill Road/Route 29 – Walter Shipe*

Mr. Walter Shipe stated that he is requesting the addition of a deceleration lane southbound on James Madison Highway (Route 29) at the intersection of Kings Hill Road (Route 657) due to safety concerns.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit noted that options related to this intersection will be considered as part of the Route 28/Route 29 design phase study, but VDOT will also consider what can be done to alleviate safety issues in the short term. This item will be reconsidered at the February 26, 2014 Committee meeting.

- *Delaplane Post Office – Peter Schwartz*

Mrs. Eddy stated that the Delaplane Post Office, located at 3046 Delaplane Grade Road, is situated very close to the street. Patrons frequently park across the street and walk to and from the entrance. It is difficult for drivers traveling south on Delaplane Grade Road (Route 712) to see pedestrians entering or leaving the Post Office. It is suggested that a sign, such as a “Slow Down – Pedestrians Ahead” or “Pedestrian Crossing,” be placed just east of the Post Office on the north side of the street.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit will look into having a sign installed. This item will be reconsidered at the February 26, 2014 Committee meeting.

- *Rail Line on Route 55 in Marshall – Dr. Yuntao Wu*

Mrs. Eddy stated that Dr. Yuntao Wu was traveling in this area on a recent evening and accidentally drove his car onto the railroad track just before a train came through. Several people stopped to help him get his vehicle off the track just in time. Dr. Wu has suggested that a “Stop” sign be installed before the railway crossing eastbound on Route 55 in Marshall.

ACTION: Since the railroad crossing already includes proper signage and cross arms, no further action is necessary.

4. *Opal Service District Comprehensive Plan Amendment*

Mrs. Eddy stated that the County has been examining the Opal Service District since 2010. In February 2013, a new Opal Steering Committee was established with a mission of preparing a Draft Service District Plan. The steering committee has prepared a draft plan, which was presented to the Transportation Committee at its October 30, 2013 meeting. If the Transportation Committee has comments, these will be forwarded to the Planning Commission, which will hold a second public hearing on the draft plan on January 30, 2014 and to the Board of Supervisors, which will hold a public hearing on the draft plan later in 2014.

Ms. Garreau stated that street trees provide numerous benefits (i.e., provision of shade; stormwater management; safety; air quality; traffic calming, etc.).

Mrs. Madge Eicher stated that the Opal Steering Committee did not want to include street trees in front of the stores because of safety concerns.

Mr. Trumbo suggested that a section be added to the Plan on utility locations.

After discussion, Mr. Eltringham suggested that the Plan include a provision that the light in Opal not be removed until the necessary infrastructure is in place to allow traffic on Opal Road to turn left to go north on Route 29.

ACTION: Mrs. Eddy will speak with Dan Painter of VDOT to determine when the separate Lees Mill Road/Route 29 study will be done. Mrs. Eddy will compile all comments received and forward these to the Committee as soon as possible. These comments will then be reviewed at the January 29, 2014 Committee meeting.

5. *Paving Unpaved Roads – Citizen Outreach*

Mrs. Eddy stated that in April of 2013, the Transportation Committee was asked to recommend unpaved roads to be paved as part of additional VDOT funding for the County's Secondary Six-Year Road Plan. The Committee recommended roads to the Board of Supervisors, which subsequently placed eight of these on the County's Secondary Six-Year Road Plan. Other unpaved roads through time have also been suggested for paving (either by residents, staff or VDOT). Because the County had to make many of its recommendations in a very short time period, staff and Committee Members agreed that before the next Secondary Six-Year Plan cycle, the County would engage in community outreach to see if residents were in favor of having their roads paved.

At the October, 2013 meeting, Committee Members briefly discussed the list of potential roads to be paved and agreed to review the list more thoroughly at the December meeting. One criterion for determining eligibility for paving is that the road must have 200 trips per day. In 2012, VDOT took traffic counts for all of the unpaved roads in Fauquier County. This data will soon be available.

It is staff's intent to hold one or two community outreach meetings in early 2014. Residents along the potential roads will be notified and invited to attend. This will allow staff and the Committee to be fully prepared with citizen comments, updated traffic counts, and road evaluations before the committee takes up the Secondary Six-Year Plan in March of 2014.

ACTION: Mr. Nesbit will provide the traffic count data for the list of unpaved roads. Community outreach meetings will be scheduled during the month of February 2014. This item will be reconsidered at the January 29, 2014 Committee meeting.

6. *Citizens' Time*

- Mr. Bob Lee stated that VDOT is considering repair/demolition options regarding the historic Waterloo Bridge and is requesting input from the Transportation Committee.
- Ms. Julie Bolthouse, representing the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), stated that because of concern about what will happen to the historic Waterloo Bridge, there is currently a "Save the Waterloo Bridge" Facebook page with over 1,500 "Likes."

ACTION: This item will be considered at the January 29, 2014 Committee meeting. Ms. Bolthouse will prepare a one page fact sheet, which will be submitted to Staff so that it can be included with the packets.

- One citizen, who is in the trucking business, stated that this industry is much safer today and that all motorists must learn to share the road.

ACTION: Comments noted.

7. Member Comments

- Mr. Eltringham announced that Mrs. Eddy will be leaving the County as of January 3, 2014 and, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for her dedication and service to the citizens of Fauquier County. Mr. Eltringham requested that the following Resolution of Appreciation be recorded in the minutes:

Resolution of Appreciation

Susan K. Eddy, AICP

Adopted at the regular meeting of the Fauquier County Transportation Committee, held in the Warren Green Building, 10 Hotel Street, Warrenton, Virginia, on Wednesday, December 11, 2013.

WHEREAS, Susan K. Eddy has served as the Chief of Planning, Department of Community Development from July 23, 2007 until January 2014 and supported the Transportation Committee during that time; and

WHEREAS, Susan Eddy's analytical, methodical and heroic attention to detail enabled thorough examination of transportation issues which greatly improved the quality and understanding of the Transportation Committee; and

WHEREAS, Susan Eddy demonstrated sustained courage, selfless commitment and unwavering perseverance to ensure that Fauquier County planning carefully balanced focused development within the context of the County's rural way of life; and

WHEREAS, Susan Eddy repeatedly used her comprehensive knowledge to ingeniously generate transportation funds, even in times of austerity, as evidenced by numerous completed and funded transportation improvements throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, Susan Eddy always found the professional way ahead in controversial projects, willingly taking on the challenging Opal Service District Plan, Route 28 safety study, Route 29 access management study; all with the certainty that comprehensive review and open discussion enabled better decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Committee, on behalf of the citizens of Fauquier County, wishes to express its deep appreciation for her service and leadership to the citizens of Fauquier County; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Fauquier County Transportation Committee, by this Resolution, does hereby express its appreciation to Susan Eddy for her significant and sustained contributions to the Fauquier County Transportation Committee; and to commend her for her service and leadership to the citizens of Fauquier County; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be placed within the minutes of the Transportation Committee in recognition of Susan Eddy's service to Fauquier County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 29, 2014.**